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1871

Constitution and By-Laws

OF THE

ST. LOUIS MEDICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

WITH A

CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS

AND

FEE BILL.

SAINT LOUIS:

LEVISON & BLYTHE, PRINTERS AND BLANK-BOOK MANUFACTURERS, 219 OLIVE STREET.
1871.

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Annex

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ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

PREAMBLE.

By the authority of, and in accordance with, an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, entitled, "An Act to incorporate the Medical Society of the State of Missouri, at St. Louis," approved the 25th day of January, 1837, the following Constitution and By-Laws have, this 29th day of January, 1838, been adopted, and are hereby declared the Rules for the government of said Company.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

St. Louis Medical Society of Missouri.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This Society shall be called and known by the name of "THE ST. LOUIS MEDICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI."

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

It shall confine its operations to the advancement of the medical and its collateral sciences in general, and to the improvement of the Medical Profession of the City of St. Louis in particular.

ARTICLE III.

DIVISION.

It shall consist of three classes of members, to-wit., Associate, Corresponding and Honorary.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS.

Its officers shall be a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and a Librarian.

ARTICLE V.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

There shall be four Standing Committees of this Society, to-wit., a Committee on Elections, a Committee on Publications, an Executive Committee, and a Library Committee.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE VI.

MEETINGS.

The meetings of this Society shall be known and designated as Annual, Regular and Special.

ARTICLE VII.

AMENDMENTS.

Any motion to amend or repeal this Constitution, or any part thereof, must be submitted in writing, endorsed by two associate members, and shall not be acted upon before the third reading at successive regular meetings, and then shall not take effect unless by consent of three-fourths of all the associate members present.

BY-LAWS

OF THE

St. Louis Medical Society of Missouri.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. An application for associate membership must be made to the Society at one of its regular meetings, either in writing by the applicant himself, or verbally, by one of the associate members.

SEC. 2. When a member presents the name of any physician for membership of this Society, he shall at the same time present the diploma of the applicant; and in the event of the applicant not possessing a diploma, the fact shall be mentioned, and the applicant notified to appear before the Committee on Elections, for examination.

SEC. 3. The application for associate membership must be referred to the Committee on Elections, who shall report thereon at the earliest regular meeting thereafter that circumstances will permit.

SEC. 4. The election for associate membership shall be by ballot, and no applicant shall be considered as elected who shall not have received at least three-fourths of the votes of the associate members present.

SEC. 5. Every associate member elect shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$3, as admission fee, which shall be his contribution for that year, regardless of the time of election.

SEC. 6. Honorary members may be proposed by any associate member, and may be elected at any meeting of the Society, provided two-thirds of the associate members present concur therein.

SEC. 7. Only those of pre-eminent reputation in the profession shall be eligible to honorary membership.

SEC. 8. An associate member permanently removing his residence from this city shall become thereby a corresponding member.

SEC. 9. Physicians residing out of the city may be proposed as corresponding members by any associate member; provided, however, that the professional character of the applicant is vouched for by two associate members, or by the practising physicians of his vicinity.

SEC. 10. Applications for corresponding membership shall be referred to the Committee on Elections, and shall be acted upon as in the case of applications for associate membership.

SEC. 11. Neither honorary nor corresponding members shall have any title in any property of the Society, or be entitled to a vote.

SEC. 12. All classes of members shall have equal privileges in the discussion of scientific questions.

SEC. 13. No person holding any patent, or part thereof, for medicines or secret remedies for diseases, or who shall, by publication in newspapers or otherwise, announce his pretensions to superior qualifications in any particular disease or diseases, or who shall resort to public advertisements, or private cards or handbills, inviting the attention of individuals affected with particular diseases, or publicly offer advice or medicine to the poor, gratis, or promise radical cures, or publish cases of operations in the daily prints, or suffer such publication to be made, or invite laymen to be present at operations, or boast of cures or remedies, or address certificates of skill and success, or perform any other similar acts, shall be eligible to membership or hold a seat in this Society.

SEC. 14. Any member infringing on section 13, shall, on proper evidence thereof, be expelled from the Society.

ARTICLE II.

OF MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the Society shall be the first regular meeting in each year.

SEC. 2. The regular meetings of the Society shall be on Saturday evening of each week.

SEC. 3. A special meeting may be at any time convened by the President or five associate members; provided notice thereof shall have been given one day previously in one or more newspapers.

ARTICLE III.

OF BUSINESS.

SECTION 1. The meetings shall be opened by the President or the Vice-President; or in the absence of both of these, by the calling of some one of the associate members to the chair.

SEC. 2. At all regular meetings, the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting shall have precedence of everything else.

SEC. 3. At the annual meeting, the officers of the preceding year shall make their reports, and those for the current year be elected; but should no meeting be held, or election be made on that day, the President or the number of associate members specified in article II, section 3, of these By-Laws, may call a meeting therefor, and proceed therein.

SEC. 4. No officer shall be eligible to the same office for two terms consecutively, except the Librarian and Recording Secretary; but in default of an election at the regular term, the officers of the preceding term shall perform their duties *ad interim*.

SEC. 5. The term of all the officers' duties shall be considered as commencing with the adjournment of the annual meeting; but their duties shall only commence with the next meeting after the one at which they were elected.

SEC. 6. Every election for officers shall be by ballot.

SEC. 7. After the election, the Recording Secretary shall give notice before the time of the next meeting, to each of the officers elected, of their election.

SEC. 8. Vacancies in any of the offices may be filled at any regular meeting.

SEC. 9. Ten associate members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting regularly convened, and be authorized to transact all business that can come before such meetings, except for the purpose of discussion of medical questions, or the reading of papers by members, when five may constitute a quorum.

SEC. 10. At regular meetings, after the reading of the minutes, the order of business shall be as follows, viz :

First—Reports of officers and committees, and action thereon.

Second—Election of officers and members.

Third—Nomination of candidates for membership.

Fourth—Extraordinary business.

Fifth—Making oral or written communications and discussions immediately after the delivery of each.

Sixth—Proposing and discussing questions.

SEC. 11. At special meetings, the object for which the meeting was convened shall have the precedence of all other business.

SEC. 12. The presiding officer, in all cases not specially provided for, shall regulate the proceedings of every meeting, in accordance with the most approved parliamentary rules; but any member shall have the right of appealing to the Society from the decision of the Chair.

ARTICLE IV.

RULES OF DEBATE.

SECTION 1. In debate, members shall confine their remarks to the subject under discussion, or to topics relevant thereto.

SEC. 2. No member shall be allowed to occupy the floor longer than twenty minutes, to the exclusion of other members who may desire to speak.

SEC. 3. No member shall be entitled to the floor a second time during the same evening, until every other member, who may so desire, has had an opportunity to speak.

SEC. 4. No member shall be permitted to address the society a second time during the same evening for a longer period than fifteen minutes, without the consent of a majority of the members present.

SEC. 5. These rules shall not apply to the reading of essays, delivery of studied addresses, or reports of cases, but only to the debating of medical subjects.

ARTICLE V.

OF THE PRESIDENT.

SECTION 1. The presiding officer shall preserve order, regulate the proceedings of the Society, state and put questions, and decide the votes.

ARTICLE VI.

OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

SECTION 1. The Vice-President shall exercise all duties appertaining to the office of President, in the absence of the latter.

ARTICLE VII.

OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

SECTION 1. The Corresponding Secretary shall give notice to all

members, of their election; and he shall manage all matters relating to the interests of the Society requiring correspondence, except such as relate to the Library.

SEC. 2. He shall read to the Society all communications and replies which he may have made or received during the preceding recess, and then deliver them to the Recording Secretary; and he shall perform such other duties pertaining to his office as the President or the Society may direct.

ARTICLE VIII.

OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

SECTION 1. The Recording Secretary shall keep a fair record of all the proceedings of the Society.

SEC. 2. He shall keep a correct list of all its members, and furnish the Corresponding Secretary with the names and places of residence, if necessary, of all newly elected members, and the time of their election.

SEC. 3. He shall keep in his possession all communications and other papers belonging to the Society, except during the time that they may be otherwise disposed of by the Society.

SEC. 4. All papers in the possession of the Recording Secretary shall be accessible to the members of the Society; but under no circumstances shall extracts be allowed from the Records of the Society.

SEC. 5. The Recording Secretary shall furnish the chairman of each committee that may be appointed, a list of the members of the committee, and a record of minutes relating to their appointment.

SEC. 6. He shall perform all other duties now required by this Constitution and By-Laws, or any others assigned to him hereafter appertaining to his office.

ARTICLE IX.

OF THE TREASURER.

SECTION 1. The Treasurer, on or before assuming the duties of his office, shall file with the Recording Secretary a bond fully equal in amount to the liabilities of his office, which bond shall be signed by two parties, as securities, to be approved by the President.

SEC. 2. He shall collect all contributions due the Society, and shall be entitled to 10 per cent. from the Society's funds for all collections so made.

SEC. 3. He shall pay out such moneys as he has in his possession, agreeable to the orders of the Society, certified by the officer presiding at the time the order was made.

SEC. 4. He shall keep a regular account of all moneys received and paid by him, and make a written report thereof at each annual meeting, or oftener, if required by the Society.

SEC. 5. He shall, at the end of his term or on vacating his office, deliver up to his successor all moneys, books, papers or other property belonging to the Society, that may be in his possession, or for which he is responsible.

ARTICLE X.

OF THE LIBRARIAN.

SECTION 1. All books, journals, magazines and other property connected with the Library, shall be under his charge, and he shall be responsible for the safe keeping of the same.

SEC. 2. The keys of the Library shall be in his possession, and in case of sickness, or unavoidable detention, he shall notify the President, and transmit to him the keys; and in this contingency the President shall be empowered to appoint a Librarian *pro tem*.

SEC. 3. He shall keep a full and accurate catalogue of all the books, journals, magazines, etc., belonging to the Society; number and arrange them in proper order; keep a duplicate of the same, which shall at all times be open to the inspection of the members; and shall keep a record in a book provided for that purpose, of all the books presented to the Society, with the names of the donors.

SEC. 4. He shall enter in a book, to be kept for that purpose, the number of every volume delivered by him, the name of the member to whom delivered, the time of taking and returning the same, together with the forfeitures arising from every default.

SEC. 5. He shall collect all forfeitures and penalties incurred by members for books or journals lost, injured and detained, and account to the Treasurer for the same.

SEC. 6. He shall, at the close of the year, or oftener, if required, report to the Society the names of the members who refuse to pay their forfeitures, or lose or damage any books belonging to the library.

SEC. 7. He shall examine with care all the books returned, to ascertain whether they have been injured or defaced, and shall then replace them in proper order upon the shelves.

SEC. 8. He shall deliver books to members only upon personal application, or written order.

SEC. 9. The library shall be open at every regular meeting of the Society for the delivery and return of books.

SEC. 10. No member shall be allowed to take out more than one book, or set of books, or more than one journal, at a time.

SEC. 11. Each book may be detained two weeks, and each journal one week; and any member who shall detain a book longer than the time specified, shall forfeit for every day a volume is so detained, two cents, and for every journal so detained, two cents for each day.

SEC. 12. If any member lose or injure a book, he shall make the same good to the Librarian, and if it be one of a set, he shall pay to the Librarian the full value of the set, and may thereupon receive the remaining volumes as his property; if it be a journal that is injured or lost, he shall forfeit double the value of the number so lost or injured.

SEC. 13. None but members of the Society shall have the privilege of taking books from the library, and no member shall avail himself of its benefits until he has paid the annual assessment, and all forfeitures adjudged against him.

SEC. 14. All sums received by the Librarian in the way of forfeitures and penalties shall be added to the Library fund, to be used only for the benefits of the Library.

ARTICLE XI.

OF THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. The Committee on Elections shall consist of three members.

SEC. 2. They shall be elected at the time of the annual election.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Elections to examine into and report upon the moral and professional qualifications of persons applying for associate and corresponding membership.

SEC. 4. Every applicant for associate membership, who does not present satisfactory evidence of being a graduate of some respectable Medical institution, shall submit to an examination by the Committee on Elections.

ARTICLE XII.

OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

SECTION 1. The Committee on Publications shall consist of three members, and shall be elected at the time of the annual election.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Publications to receive the communications made to the Society, select from them such as they may deem worthy of publication, and report the same, and they shall superintend the publication of all matter authorized by the Society.

ARTICLE XIII.

OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of three members, and shall be elected at the time of the annual election.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to invite members to read papers before the Society, and to prepare questions for discussion; and any member who may desire to read a paper before the Society, is requested previously to inform this Committee.

SEC. 3. It shall, at every regular meeting, give notice of the subject for discussion at the succeeding meeting, and the paper or subject thus announced shall have precedence in order before any other paper or subject; *provided, however*, that in all cases, any pathological specimen may be first presented and discussed.

ARTICLE XIV.

OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

SECTION 1. The Library Committee shall be annually appointed by the President, at the regular meeting succeeding the annual meeting.

SEC. 2. It shall be its duty to report on suitable books and journals for the library, to purchase books and accept donations of books and other articles suitable to the library, and to recommend, from time to time, when Library funds shall warrant, the purchase of new books, and to take into consideration such other matters as the Society may refer to it.

SEC. 3. It shall examine into the condition of the books in the library, and report to the Society at least two weeks before the annual meeting of that body.

ARTICLE XV.

OF COMMUNICATIONS.

SECTION 1. At each regular meeting, any member may volunteer to read a communication or lecture at the succeeding meeting.

SEC. 2. All members shall have equal privileges in the discussion

of scientific questions, and communications from corresponding members shall be in the same order as those of associate members, and shall be alike open to discussion.

SEC. 3. A copy of such paper, after having been read to the Society, shall be delivered to the chairman of the Committee on Publications, and no paper shall be published as having been read before the Society without the sanction of said committee.

ARTICLE XVI.

OF AYES AND NAYS.

SECTION 1. The ayes and nays on any subject on which the Society may have decided to take a question, shall be recorded when demanded by one third of the members present entitled to vote thereon.

ARTICLE XVII.

OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

SECTION 1. The annual contribution of each associate member shall be three dollars, payable annually at the commencement of the year.

SEC. 2. All measures proposing assessments, or the appropriation of money out of the treasury of the Society, other than for the usual incidental and current expenses, shall be submitted in writing, duly signed and dated, at least four weeks previous to final action thereon; and it shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to read the same in full at the opening of each meeting, until said final action has been taken.

SEC. 3. Any member two years in arrears, and who shall refuse to pay upon application made to him by the Treasurer, shall forfeit his membership in this Society.

SEC. 4. Any person who shall have ceased to be a member of this Society on account of the non-payment of his dues, shall not again become a member without the payment of all arrearages, if such member has been a resident of the city during his non-membership.

ARTICLE XVIII.

OF CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. The Society may issue a certificate of membership to each of its members, under such regulations as may be deemed necessary.

ARTICLE XIX.

OF RESIGNATIONS.

SECTION 1. Any member may withdraw from the Society on presenting a written resignation, accompanied by the Treasurer's receipt for his dues.

ARTICLE XX.

OF EXPULSIONS.

SECTION 1. Any member who shall be guilty of any gross misconduct, either as a member of this Society, or as a member of the medical profession, or as a private citizen, shall be liable to expulsion on conviction, or to such other censure as the Society may approve, three-fourths of the associate members present concurring therein.

ARTICLE XXI.

OF AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. Any motion to amend or repeal these By-Laws, or any part thereof, shall be submitted in writing, endorsed by two associate members, and shall not be acted upon before the second reading at successive regular meetings, and then shall not take effect unless by consent of two-thirds of all the associate members present.

CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS

ADOPTED BY THE

St. Louis Medical Society of Missouri.

MARCH, 1859.

WITH A FEE BILL.

EXTRACT FROM THE RECORD BOOK.

JUNE 18, 1850.

WHEREAS, It is desirable that the members of the MEDICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI adopt a Code of Medical Ethics as the standard by which to regulate their intercourse with each other, with their patients, and with the community at large; AND WHEREAS, it is expedient that the Medical Profession in the United States should be governed by the same Code; therefore,

Resolved, That we adopt as our own the Code of Medical Ethics recommended by the American Medical Association, held at Philadelphia, in May, 1847, and that the same be binding on each and every member of this Society; that it be published with our Constitution and By-Laws; and that all violations and infractions of the duties and principles therein set forth shall be dealt with as in the case of a violation of any other law of this Society.

CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS.

OF THE DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO THEIR PATIENTS, AND OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF PATIENTS TO THEIR PHYSICIANS.

ART. I.—*Duties of physicians to their patients.*

SECTION 1. A physician should not only be ever ready to obey the calls of the sick, but his mind ought also to be imbued with the greatness of his mission, and the responsibility he habitually incurs in its discharge. These obligations are the more deep and enduring, because there is no tribunal other than his own conscience to adjudge penalties for carelessness or neglect. Physicians should, therefore, minister to the sick with due impressions of the importance of their office; reflecting that the ease, the health, and the lives of those committed to their charge, depend on their skill, attention, and fidelity. They should study, also, in their deportment, so to unite *tenderness* with *firminess*, and *condescension* with *authority*, as to inspire the minds of their patients with gratitude, respect, and confidence.

SEC. 2. Every case committed to the charge of a physician should be treated with attention, steadiness, and humanity. Reasonable indulgence should be granted to the mental imbecility and caprices of the sick. Secrecy and delicacy, when required by peculiar circumstances, should be strictly observed; and the familiar and confidential intercourse to which physicians are admitted in their professional visits, should be used with discretion, and with the most scrupulous regard to fidelity and honor. The obligation of secrecy extends beyond the period of professional services;—none of the privacies of personal and domestic life, no infirmity of disposition or flaw of character observed during professional attendance, should ever be divulged by the physician, except when he is imperatively required to do so. The force and necessity of this obligation are indeed so great, that professional men have, under certain circumstances, been protected in their observance of secrecy by courts of justice.

SEC. 3. Frequent visits to the sick are in general requisite, since they enable the physician to arrive at a more perfect knowledge of the disease—to meet promptly every change which may occur, and also tend to preserve the confidence of the patient. But unnecessary visits are to be avoided, as they give useless anxiety to the patient, tend to diminish the authority of the physician, and render him liable to be suspected of interested motives.

SEC. 4. A physician should not be forward to make gloomy prognostications, because they savor of empiricism, by magnifying the importance of his services in the treatment or cure of the disease. But he should not fail, on proper occasions, to give to the friends of the patient, timely notice of danger when it really occurs; and even to the patient himself, if absolutely necessary. This office, however, is so peculiarly alarming when executed by him, that it ought to be declined whenever it can be assigned to any other person of sufficient judgment and delicacy. For, the physician should be the minister of hope and comfort to the sick; that, by such cordials to the drooping spirit, he may smooth the bed of death, revive expiring life, and counteract the depressing influence of those maladies which often disturb the tranquility of the most resigned in their last moments. The life of a sick person can be shortened, not only by the acts, but also by the words or the manner of a physician. It is, therefore, a sacred duty to guard himself carefully in this respect, and to avoid all things which have a tendency to discourage the patient and depress his spirits.

SEC. 5. A physician ought not to abandon a patient because the case is deemed incurable; for his attendance may continue to be highly useful to the patient, and comforting to the relatives around him, even in the last period of a fatal malady, by alleviating pain and other symptoms, and by soothing mental anguish. To decline attendance, under such circumstances, would be sacrificing to fanciful delicacy and mistaken liberality, that moral duty, which is independent of, and far superior to, all pecuniary consideration.

SEC. 6. Consultations should be promoted in difficult or protracted cases, as they give rise to confidence, energy, and more enlarged views in practice.

SEC. 7. The opportunity which a physician not unfrequently enjoys of promoting and strengthening the good resolutions of his patients, suffering under the consequences of vicious conduct, ought

never to be neglected. His counsels, or even remonstrances, will give satisfaction, not offence, if they be proffered with politeness, and evince a genuine love of virtue, accompanied by a sincere interest in the welfare of the person to whom they are addressed.

ART. II.—*Obligations of patients to their physicians.*

SECTION 1. The members of the medical profession, upon whom is enjoined the performance of so many important and arduous duties towards the community, and who are required to make so many sacrifices of comfort, ease, and health, for the welfare of those who avail themselves of their services, certainly have a right to expect and require, that their patients should entertain a just sense of the duties which they owe to their medical attendants.

SEC. 2. The first duty of a patient is to select as his medical adviser one who has received a regular professional education. In no trade or occupation, do mankind rely on the skill of an untaught artist; and in medicine, confessedly the most difficult and intricate of the sciences, the world ought not to suppose that knowledge is intuitive.

SEC. 3. Patients should prefer a physician whose habits of life are regular, and who is not devoted to company, pleasure, or to any pursuit incompatible with his professional obligations. A patient should, also, confide the care of himself and family, as much as possible, to one physician; for a medical man who has become acquainted with the peculiarities of constitution, habits, and predispositions of those he attends, is more likely to be successful in his treatment than one who does not possess that knowledge.

A patient who has thus selected his physician, should always apply for advice in what may appear to him trivial cases, for the most fatal results often supervene on the slightest accidents. It is of still more importance that he should apply for assistance in the forming stage of violent diseases; it is to a neglect of this precept that medicine owes much of the uncertainty and imperfection with which it has been reproached.

SEC. 4. Patients should faithfully and unreservedly communicate to their physician the supposed cause of their disease. This is the more important, as many diseases of a mental origin simulate those depending on external causes, and yet are only to be cured by ministering to the mind diseased. A patient should never be afraid of thus making

his physician his friend and adviser; he should always bear in mind that a medical man is under the strongest obligations of secrecy. Even the female sex should never allow feelings of shame or delicacy to prevent their disclosing the seat, symptoms, and causes of complaints peculiar to them. However commendable a modest reserve may be in the common occurrences of life, its strict observance in medicine is often attended with the most serious consequences, and a patient may sink under a painful and loathsome disease, which might have been readily prevented, had timely intimation been given to the physician.

SEC. 5. A patient should never weary his physician with a tedious detail of events or matters not appertaining to his disease. Even as relates to his actual symptoms, he will convey much more real information by giving clear answers to interrogatories, than by the most minute account of his own framing. Neither should he obtrude upon his physician the details of his business nor the history of his family concerns.

SEC. 6. The obedience of a patient to the prescriptions of his physician should be prompt and implicit. He should never permit his own crude opinions as to their fitness to influence his attention to them. A failure in one particular may render an otherwise judicious treatment dangerous, and even fatal. This remark is equally applicable to diet, drink, and exercise. As patients become convalescent they are apt to suppose that the rules prescribed for them may be disregarded, and the consequence, but too often, is a relapse. Patients should never allow themselves to be persuaded to take any medicine whatever, that may be recommended to them by the self-constituted doctors and doctresses who are so frequently met with, and who pretend to possess infallible remedies for the cure of every disease. However simple some of their prescriptions may appear to be, it often happens that they are productive of much mischief, and in all cases they are injurious, by contravening the plan of treatment adopted by the physician.

SEC. 7. A patient should, if possible, avoid even the *friendly visit of a physician* who is not attending him—and when he does receive them, he should never converse on the subject of his disease, as an observation may be made, without any intention of interference, which may destroy his confidence in the course he is pursuing, and induce him to neglect the directions prescribed to him. A patient should

never send for a consulting physician without the express consent of his own medical attendant. It is of great importance that physicians should act in concert; for, although their modes of treatment may be attended with equal success when employed singly, yet conjointly they are very likely to be productive of disastrous results.

SEC. 8. When a patient wishes to dismiss his physician, justice and common courtesy require that he should declare his reasons for so doing.

SEC. 9. Patients should always, when practicable, send for their physician in the morning, before his usual hour of going out; for, by being early aware of the visits he has to pay during the day, the physician is able to apportion his time in such a manner as to prevent an interference of engagements. Patients should also avoid calling on their medical advisers unnecessarily during the hours devoted to meals or sleep. They should always be in readiness to receive the visits of their physician, as the detention of a few minutes is often of serious inconvenience to him.

SEC. 10. A patient should, after his recovery, entertain a just and enduring sense of the value of the service rendered him by his physician; for these are of such a character, that no mere pecuniary acknowledgment can repay or cancel them.

OF THE DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO EACH OTHER, AND TO THE PROFESSION AT LARGE.

ART. I.—*Duties for the support of professional character.*

SECTION 1. Every individual on entering the profession, as he becomes thereby entitled to all its privileges and immunities, incurs an obligation to exert his best abilities to maintain its dignity and honor, to exalt its standing, and to extend the bounds of its usefulness. He should, therefore, observe strictly such laws as are instituted for the government of its members;—should avoid all contumelious and sarcastic remarks relative to the faculty as a body; and while by unwearied diligence, he resorts to every honorable means of enriching the science, he should entertain a due respect for his seniors, who have, by their labors, brought it to the elevated condition in which he finds it.

SEC. 2. There is no profession, from the members of which greater purity of character, and a higher standard of moral excellence are

required, than the medical; and to attain such eminence, is a duty every physician owes alike to his profession and to his patients. It is due to the latter, as without it he cannot command their respect and confidence, and to both, because no scientific attainments can compensate for the want of correct moral principles. It is also incumbent upon the faculty to be temperate in all things, for the practice of physic requires the unremitting exercise of a clear and vigorous understanding; and, on emergencies, for which no professional man should be unprepared, a steady hand, an acute eye, and an unclouded head may be essential to the well-being, and even to the life, of a fellow-creature.

SEC. 3. It is derogatory to the dignity of the profession to resort to public advertisements, or private cards, or handbills, inviting the attention of individuals affected with particular diseases—publicly offering advice and medicine to the poor gratis, or promising radical cures; or to publish cases and operations in the daily prints, or suffer such publications to be made; to invite laymen to be present at operations, to boast of cures and remedies, to adduce certificates of skill and success, or to perform any other similar acts. These are the ordinary practices of empirics, and are highly reprehensible in a regular physician.

SEC. 4. Equally derogatory to professional character is it for a physician to hold a patent for any surgical instrument or medicine; or to dispense a secret *nostrum*, whether it be the composition or exclusive property of himself or others. For, if such nostrums be of real efficacy, any concealment regarding it is inconsistent with beneficence and professional liberality; and if mystery alone give it value and importance, such craft implies either disgraceful ignorance or fraudulent avarice. It is also reprehensible for physicians to give certificates attesting the efficacy of patent or secret medicines, or in any way to promote the use of them.

ART. II.—*Professional services of physicians to each other.*

SECTION 1. All practitioners of medicine, their wives, and their children while under the paternal care, are entitled to the gratuitous services of any one or more of the faculty residing near them, whose assistance may be desired. A physician afflicted with disease is usually an incompetent judge of his own case; and the natural anxiety and solicitude which he experiences at the sickness of a wife, a child,

or any one who, by the ties of consanguinity, is rendered peculiarly dear to him, tend to obscure his judgment, and produce timidity and irresolution in his practice. Under such circumstances, medical men are peculiarly dependent upon each other, and kind offices and professional aid should always be cheerfully and gratuitously afforded. Visits ought not, however, to be obtruded officiously; as such unasked civility may give rise to embarrassment, or interfere with that choice on which confidence depends. But, if a distant member of the faculty, whose circumstances are affluent, request attendance, and an honorarium be offered, it should not be declined; for no pecuniary obligation ought to be imposed, which the party receiving it would wish not to incur.

ART. III.—*Of the duties of physicians as respects vicarious offices.*

SECTION 1. The affairs of life, the pursuit of health, and the various accidents and contingencies to which a medical man is peculiarly exposed, sometimes require him temporarily to withdraw from his duties to his patients, and to request some of his professional brethren to officiate for him. Compliance with this request is an act of courtesy, which should always be performed with the utmost consideration for the interest and character of the family physician, and when exercised for a short period, all the pecuniary obligations for such service should be awarded to him. But if a member of the profession neglect his business in quest of pleasure and amusement, he cannot be considered as entitled to the advantages of the frequent and long-continued exercise of this fraternal courtesy, without awarding to the physician who officiates, the fees arising from the discharge of his professional duties.

In obstetrical and important surgical cases, which give rise to unusual fatigue, anxiety, and responsibility, it is just that the fees accruing therefrom should be awarded to the physician who officiates.

ART. IV.—*Of the duties of physicians in regard to consultations.*

SECTION 1. A regular medical education furnishes the only presumptive evidence of professional abilities and acquirements, and ought to be the only acknowledged right of an individual to the exercise and honors of his profession. Nevertheless, as in consultations the good of the patient is the sole object in view, and this is often dependent on personal confidence, no intelligent regular practitioner,

who has a license to practise from some medical board of known and acknowledged respectability, recognized by this Association, and who is in good moral and professional standing in the place in which he resides, should be fastidiously excluded from fellowship, or his aid refused in consultation, when it is requested by the patient. But no one can be considered as a regular practitioner or a fit associate in consultation, whose practice is based on an exclusive dogma, to the rejection of the accumulated experience of the profession, and of the aids actually furnished by anatomy, physiology, pathology, and organic chemistry.

SEC. 2. In consultations, no rivalry or jealousy should be indulged; candor, probity, and all due respect should be exercised towards the physician having charge of the case.

SEC. 3. In consultations, the attending physician should be the first to propose the necessary questions to the sick; after which the consulting physician should have the opportunity to make such further inquiries of the patient as may be necessary to satisfy him of the true character of the case. Both physicians should then retire to a private place for deliberation; and the one first in attendance should communicate the directions agreed upon to the patient or his friends, as well as any opinions which it may be thought proper to express. But no statement or discussion of it should take place before the patient or his friends, except in the presence of all the faculty attending, and by their common consent; and no *opinions* or *prognostications* should be delivered which are not the result of previous deliberation and concurrence.

SEC. 4. In consultations, the physician in attendance should deliver his opinion first; and when there are several consulting, they should deliver their opinions in the order in which they have been called in. No decision, however, should restrain the attending physician from making such variations in the mode of treatment, as any subsequent unexpected change in the character of the case may demand. But such variation, and the reasons for it, ought to be carefully detailed at the next meeting in consultation. The same privilege belongs also to the consulting physician if he is sent for in an emergency, when the regular attendant is out of the way, and similar explanations must be made by him at the next consultation.

SEC. 5. The utmost punctuality should be observed in the visits of physicians when they are to hold consultation together, and this is

generally practicable, for society has been considerate enough to allow the plea of a professional engagement to take precedence of all others, and to be an ample reason for the relinquishment of any present occupation. But as professional engagements may sometimes interfere, and delay one of the parties, the physician who first arrives should wait for his associate a reasonable period, after which the consultation should be considered as postponed to a new appointment. If it be the attending physician who is present, he will of course see the patient and prescribe; but if it be the consulting one, he should retire, except in case of emergency, or when he has been called from a considerable distance, in which latter case he may examine the patient, and give his opinion in *writing*, and *under seal*, to be delivered to his associate.

SEC. 6. In consultations, theoretical discussions should be avoided, as occasioning perplexity and loss of time. For there may be much diversity of opinion concerning speculative points, with perfect agreement in those modes of practice which are founded, not on hypothesis, but on experience and observation.

SEC. 7. All discussions in consultation should be held as secret and confidential. Neither by words nor manner should any of the parties to a consultation assert or insinuate that any part of the treatment pursued did not receive his assent. The responsibility must be equally divided between the medical attendants—they must equally share the credit of success as well as the blame of failure.

SEC. 8. Should an irreconcilable diversity of opinion occur when several physicians are called upon to consult together, the opinion of the majority should be considered as decisive; but if the numbers be equal on each side, then the decision should rest with the attending physician. It may, moreover, sometimes happen, that two physicians cannot agree in their views of the nature of a case, and the treatment to be pursued. This is a circumstance much to be deplored, and should always be avoided, if possible, by mutual concessions, as far as they can be justified by a conscientious regard for the dictates of judgment. But in the event of its occurrence, a third physician should, if practicable, be called to act as an umpire; and, if circumstances prevent the adoption of this course, it must be left to the patient to select the physician in whom he is most willing to confide. But, as every physician relies upon the rectitude of his judgment, he should, when left in the minority, politely and consistently retire from any further deliberation in the consultation, or participation in the management of the case.

SEC. 9. As circumstances sometimes occur to render a *special consultation* desirable, when the continued attendance of two physicians might be objectional to the patient, the member of the faculty whose assistance is required in such cases, should sedulously guard against all future unsolicited attendance. As such consultations require an extraordinary portion both of time and attention, at least a double honorarium may be reasonably expected.

SEC. 10. A physician who is called upon to consult, should observe the most honorable and scrupulous regard for the character and standing of the practitioner in attendance; the practice of the latter, if necessary, should be justified as far as it can be, consistently with a conscientious regard for truth, and no hint or insinuation should be thrown out which could impair the confidence reposed in him, or affect his reputation. The consulting physician should also carefully refrain from any of those extraordinary attentions or assiduities, which are too often practised by the dishonest for the base purpose of gaining applause, or ingratiating themselves into the favor of families and individuals.

ART. V.—*Duties of physicians in cases of interference.*

SECTION 1. Medicine is a liberal profession, and those admitted into its rank should found their expectations of practice upon the extent of their qualifications, not on intrigue or artifice.

SEC. 2. A physician in his intercourse with a patient under the care of another practitioner, should observe the strictest caution and reserve. No meddling inquiries should be made—no disingenuous hints given relative to the nature and treatment of his disorder; nor any course of conduct pursued that may directly or indirectly tend to diminish the trust reposed in the physician employed.

SEC. 3. The same circumspection and reserve should be observed when, from motives of business or friendship, a physician is prompted to visit an individual who is under the direction of another practitioner. Indeed, such visits should be avoided, except under peculiar circumstances; and when they are made, no particular inquiries should be instituted relative to the nature of the disease, or the remedies employed, but the topics of conversation should be as foreign to the case as circumstances will admit.

SEC. 4. A physician ought not to take charge of or prescribe for a patient who has recently been under the care of another member of

the faculty in the same illness, except in cases of sudden emergency, or in consultation with the physician previously in attendance, or when the latter has relinquished the case, or been regularly notified that his services are no longer desired. Under such circumstances, no unjust and illiberal insinuations should be thrown out in relation to the conduct or practice previously pursued, which should be justified as far as candor and regard for truth and probity will permit; for it often happens that patients become dissatisfied when they do not experience immediate relief, and as many diseases are naturally protracted, the want of success, in the first stage of treatment, affords no evidence of a lack of professional knowledge and skill.

SEC. 5. When a physician is called to an urgent case, because the family attendant is not at hand, he ought, unless his assistance in consultation be desired, to resign the care of the patient to the latter immediately on his arrival.

SEC. 6. It often happens in cases of sudden illness, or of recent accidents and injuries, owing to the alarm and anxiety of friends, that a number of physicians are simultaneously sent for. Under these circumstances, courtesy should assign the patient to the first who arrives, who should select from those present any additional assistance that he may deem necessary. In all such cases, however, the practitioner who officiates should request the family physician, if there be one, to be called, and, unless his further attendance be requested, should resign the case to the latter on his arrival.

SEC. 7. When a physician is called to the patient of another practitioner, in consequence of the sickness or absence of the latter, he ought, on the return or recovery of the regular attendant, and with the consent of the patient, to surrender the case.

[The expression, "patient of another practitioner," is understood to mean a patient who may have been under the charge of another practitioner at the time of the attack of sickness, or departure from home of the latter, or who may have called for his attendance during his absence or sickness, or in any other manner given it to be understood that he regarded the said physician as his regular medical attendant.]

SEC. 8. A physician when visiting a sick person in the country, may be desired to see a neighboring patient who is under the regular direction of another physician, in consequence of some sudden change

or aggravation of symptoms. The conduct to be pursued on such an occasion is to give advice adapted to present circumstances; to interfere no further than is absolutely necessary with the general plan of treatment; to assume no future directions unless it be expressly desired; and, in this last case, to request an immediate consultation with the practitioner previously employed.

SEC. 9. A wealthy physician should not give advice *gratis* to the affluent; because his doing so is an injury to his professional brethren. The office of a physician can never be supported as an exclusively beneficent one; and it is defrauding, in some degree, the common funds for its support, when fees are dispensed with which might justly be claimed.

SEC. 10. When a physician who has been engaged to attend a case of midwifery is absent, and another is sent for, if delivery is accomplished during the attendance of the latter, he is entitled to the fee, but should resign the patient to the practitioner first engaged.

ART. VI.—*Of differences between physicians.*

SECTION 1. Diversity of opinion and opposition of interest, may, in the medical as in other professions, sometimes occasion controversy and even contention. Whenever such cases unfortunately occur, and cannot be immediately terminated, they should be referred to the arbitration of a sufficient number of physicians or a *court-medical*.

SEC. 2. As peculiar reserve must be maintained by physicians towards the public, in regard to professional matters, and as there exist numerous points in medical ethics and etiquette through which the feelings of medical men may be painfully assailed in their intercourse with each other, and which cannot be understood or appreciated by general society, neither the subject matter of such differences nor the adjudication of the arbitrators should be made public, as publicity in a case of this nature may be personally injurious to the individuals concerned, and can hardly fail to bring discredit on the faculty.

ART. VII.—*Of pecuniary acknowledgements.*

Some general rules should be adopted by the faculty, in every town or district, relative to *pecuniary acknowledgements* from their patients; and it should be deemed a point of honor to adhere to these rules with as much uniformity as varying circumstances will admit.

OF THE DUTIES OF THE PROFESSION TO THE PUBLIC, AND OF
THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE PUBLIC TO THE PROFESSION.ART. I.—*Duties of the profession to the public.*

SECTION 1. As good citizens, it is the duty of physicians to be ever vigilant for the welfare of the community, and to bear their part in sustaining its institutions and burdens; they should also be ever ready to give counsel to the public in relation to matters especially appertaining to their profession, as on subjects of medical police, public hygiene, and legal medicine. It is their province to enlighten the public in regard to quarantine regulations—the location, arrangement, and dietaries of hospitals, asylums, schools, prisons, and similar institutions—in relation to the medical police of towns, as drainage, ventilation, etc.—and in regard to measures for the prevention of epidemic and contagious diseases; and when pestilence prevails, it is their duty to face the danger, and to continue their labors for the alleviation of the suffering, even at the jeopardy of their own lives.

SEC. 2. Medical men should also be always ready, when called on by the legally constituted authorities, to enlighten coroners' inquests and courts of justice, on subjects strictly medical—such as involve questions relating to sanity, legitimacy, murder by poisons or other violent means, and in regard to the various other subjects embraced in the science of Medical Jurisprudence. But in these cases, and especially where they are required to make a *post-mortem* examination, it is just, in consequence of the time, labor, and skill required, and the responsibility and risk they incur, that the public should award them a proper honorarium.

SEC. 3. There is no profession by the members of which eleemosynary services are more liberally dispensed than the medical, but justice requires that some limits should be placed to the performance of such good offices. Poverty, professional brotherhood, and certain of the public duties referred to in the first section of this article, should always be recognized as presenting valid claims for gratuitous services; but neither institutions endowed by the public or by rich individuals, societies for mutual benefit, for the insurance of lives or for analogous purposes, nor any profession or occupation, can be admitted to possess such privilege. Nor can it be justly expected of physicians to furnish certificates of inability to serve on juries, to per-

form militia duty, or to testify to the state of health of persons wishing to insure their lives, obtain pensions, or the like, without a pecuniary acknowledgment. But to individuals in indigent circumstances, such professional services should always be cheerfully and freely accorded.

SEC. 4. It is the duty of physicians, who are frequent witnesses of the enormities committed by quackery, and the injury to health and even destruction of life caused by the use of quack medicines, to enlighten the public on these subjects, to expose the injuries sustained by the unwary from the devices and pretensions of artful empirics and impostors. Physicians ought to use all the influence which they may possess, as professors in Colleges of Pharmacy, and by exercising their option in regard to the shops to which their prescriptions shall be sent, to discourage druggists and apothecaries from vending quack or secret medicines, or from being in any way engaged in their manufacture and sale.

ART. II.—*Obligations of the public to physicians.*

SECTION 1. The benefits accruing to the public, directly and indirectly, from the active and unwearied beneficence of the profession, are so numerous and important, that physicians are justly entitled to the utmost consideration and respect from the community. The public ought likewise to entertain a just appreciation of medical qualifications; to make a proper discrimination between true science and the assumptions of ignorance and empiricism; to afford every encouragement and facility for the acquisition of medical education; and no longer to allow the statute-books to exhibit the anomaly of exacting knowledge from physicians, under a liability to heavy penalties, and of making them obnoxious to punishment for resorting to the only means of obtaining it.

FEE BILL,

ADOPTED BY THE

St. Louis Medical Society of Missouri,

Ordinary office advice.....	\$		\$ 2 00
Investigation in office or elsewhere, consuming considerable time, or requiring the introduction of sound or catheter, the employment of chemical tests, exploring needle, speculum, stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, laryngoscope, microscope, etc.....	5 00 to	25 00	
Written opinion or advice.....	10 00 to	25 00	
Opinion upon life insurance.....		5 00	
Medical certificate in case of insanity.....	20 00 to	50 00	
Opinion involving a question of law, or attendance at court.....	25 00 to	50 00	
For a single visit, where no further attendance is required.....	3 00 to	10 00	
Visit in city, in regular attendance, day.....	2 00 to	5 00	
“ “ “ night.....	5 00 to	10 00	
Visit to Illinoistown.....	5 00 to	10 00	
Visit to country, or over three miles from residence, by day (mileage extra).....	1 50 night	2 00	
Vaccination, including visit.....		5 00	
Extra for detention in critical cases of disease, per hour.....	10 00		
Consultation visit, first.....	10 00		
“ “ subsequent.....	5 00		
“ “ night.....	10 00 to	20 00	

Visit in cases of variola or other contagious diseases,	5 00 to	10 00
Visit in cases of poisoning.....	10 00 to	20 00
Administration of anæsthetics.....	5 00 to	10 00

OBSTETRICS.

Obstetrical attendance, uncomplicated.....	20 00 to	50 00
Twin cases.....	50 00 to	75 00
Obstetrical operations: turning, use of forceps, embryotomy, etc., (additional).....	25 00 to	100 00
Delivery of placenta.....	10 00 to	20 00
Subsequent necessary visits charged at ordinary rates.....		
Gonorrhea, in advance.....	25 00 to	50 00
Syphilis, ".....	50 00 to	200 00

MINOR SURGERY.

Venesection; opening abscesses; formation of issues; introduction of seton; scarification of gums or conjunctiva; extirpation of uvula; dressing incised wounds and bruises of slight importance; division of frænum linguæ, etc..	5 00 to	10 00
Dressing injuries of greater extent or danger, in- cluding fractures and dislocations, <i>easily re-</i> <i>duced</i> ; ligation or acupressure of arteries in wounds of little importance; amputation of fingers and toes; reducing hernia, prolapsus ani, or uterus; circumcision; removal of ton- sils and unimportant tumors; operation for ascites, etc.....	10 00 to	30 00
Operation for removal of sequestra; dressing large or dangerous wounds, requiring the closure of important arteries to arrest hemor- rhage; adjusting fractures and dislocations of greater magnitude, or involving greater diffi- culties; operation for hemorrhoids, hydrocele, fistula in ano, hare lip, strabismens, paracen- tesis; amputation of breast; castration; re- moval of tumors of some difficulty; staphy- loraphy; laryngotomy; enucleation of an eye; operation for imperforate anus or urethra....	50 00 to	150 00

CAPITAL OPERATIONS.

The larger amputations, resections and exsections; removal of the parotid gland; trephining; ovariotomy; herniotomy; lithotomy; the more difficult plastic operations; reduction of dis- locations of long standing which have re- sisted ordinary measures; operation for removal of lower jaw; adjustment of oblique fractures of the thigh, and those involving the neck of the femur or knee joint; com- pound and comminuted fractures of the larger bones and joints; extraction of cata- ract; formation of artificial pupil; treatment of stricture; club-foot etc.....			100 00 to 1000 00
Post-mortem examination for the satisfaction of friends, or medico-legal examination.....			25 00 to 100 00

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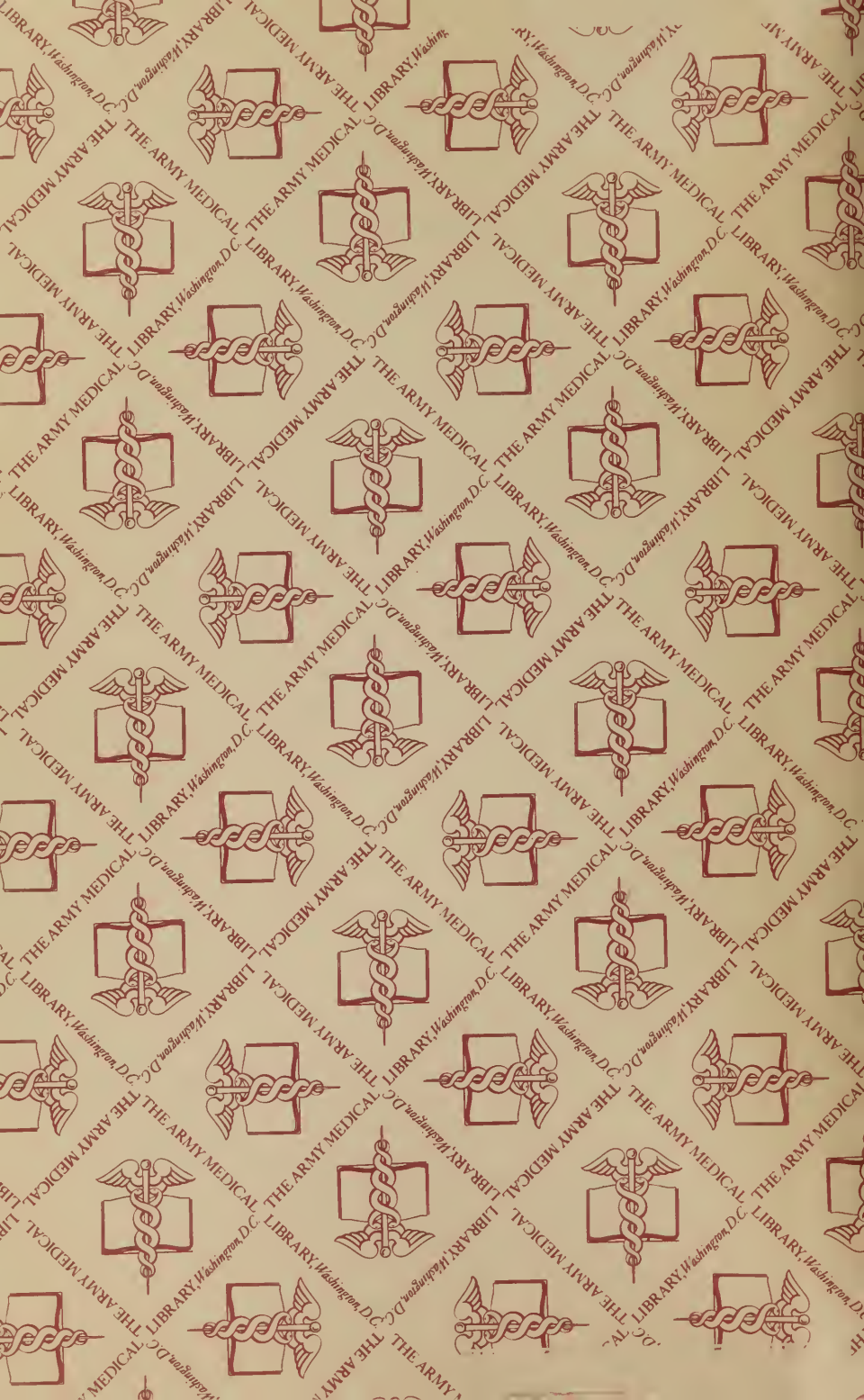
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